



**Before the  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority**

**Docket No. 15-00128**

**Petition of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.  
for Approval of a Franchise with the Town of Ashland  
City, Tennessee Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated §  
65-4-107**

**Testimony  
of  
Eddie Davidson**

**On Behalf of  
Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc.**



**December 18, 2015**

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Eddie Davidson. My business address is 83 Century  
3 Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee.

4 **Q. By whom and in what capacity are you employed?**

5 A. I am employed by Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. ("Piedmont" or  
6 the "Company") as Senior Manager, Government Relations for the  
7 Tennessee Region.

8 **Q. Please describe your educational and professional background.**

9 A. I have a B.S. in Political Science from Middle Tennessee State University.  
10 I have worked in various capacities for the Tennessee House of  
11 Representatives, and served six years as the Assistant Chief Clerk of the  
12 House from 1996 until 2002. In 2002, I joined the administration of  
13 Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell as an Associate Director of the Metro  
14 Nashville Public Works Department. I then served as a legislative liaison  
15 to the Tennessee General Assembly on behalf of Metro Nashville,  
16 eventually becoming the Director of Legislative Affairs for the City,  
17 managing all government affairs at the local, state, and federal level. I  
18 stayed on with Metro Nashville in the administration of Mayor Karl Dean  
19 as a Senior Advisor for Infrastructure and Intergovernmental Affairs prior  
20 to joining Piedmont.

21 **Q. Have you previously testified before this Authority or any other**  
22 **regulatory authority?**

23 A. I previously testified before the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA")

1 or "Authority") regarding Piedmont's flood recovery efforts and also  
2 regarding Piedmont's franchise agreements with the Town of Nolensville,  
3 the City of LaVergne, the City of Fairview, the Town of White House and  
4 the City of Greenbrier. In addition, I have testified before numerous  
5 legislative committees at the state and local level.

6 **Q. Do you hold any positions in any professional or trade associations?**

7 A. I am a member of the Tennessee Gas Association and previously served as  
8 chair of the 2010-2011 and 2012-2013 Legislative Committee. I am a past  
9 board member of the Tennessee Lobbyists Association, and serve on the  
10 board of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

11 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

12 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present information to the Authority  
13 relating to the franchise between Piedmont and the Town of Ashland City,  
14 Tennessee ("Ashland" or the "City"), as authorized by Ordinance #440.

15 **Q. Could you please explain the circumstances that caused a need for the**  
16 **franchise between Piedmont and Ashland?**

17 A. Yes. Under Section 65-26-101 of the Tennessee Code Annotated,  
18 Piedmont is required to have the consent of the City, in the form of a  
19 municipal ordinance, in order to enter onto the streets and alleys of  
20 Ashland for the purpose of placing, maintaining, or expanding its natural  
21 gas distribution and transmission facilities. Piedmont is desirous of  
22 continuing to serve customers within Ashland City and, accordingly, is  
23 required to obtain the City's consent to such service within its municipal

1 boundaries.

2 **Q. When did Piedmont begin pursuing a franchise arrangement with**  
3 **Ashland?**

4 A. Piedmont started discussing a possible franchise agreement with Ashland  
5 in late August of 2015.

6 **Q. How were those negotiations pursued?**

7 A. I notified Ashland City Mayor, Rick Johnson, that the current franchise  
8 would be expiring in 2016 and we began to have discussions around  
9 renewing our franchise and continuing to provide service to the citizens of  
10 Ashland City. Mayor Johnson utilized the expertise of the City Attorney,  
11 Jennifer Noe, as well as the City's Public Works director, Chris Cherry as  
12 we negotiated the terms of the new franchise.

13 **Q. What was the result of those negotiations?**

14 A. These negotiations were successful as evidenced by the enactment of  
15 Ordinance #440, incorporated herein by reference. The agreement  
16 establishes a franchise arrangement between Piedmont and Ashland for a  
17 period of twenty years.

18 **Q. What are the primary provisions of the new franchise?**

19 A. The franchise provides for Piedmont's ability to continue, for a term of 20  
20 years, to construct, operate and maintain a gas utilities system within the  
21 City for production, transmission, distribution and sale of gas to  
22 consumers and users within the City and to the City and any and all  
23 agencies and departments. It also establishes reasonable terms and

1 conditions applicable to activities by Piedmont necessary to provide such  
2 service and provides for a five percent (5%) franchise fee on Piedmont's  
3 annual gross revenues collected from customers within the geographical  
4 limits specified on Exhibit A to the Ordinance #440.

5 **Q. Is Piedmont satisfied with the negotiated resolution of these issues?**

6 A. Yes. The terms of this franchise are similar to the terms that Piedmont has  
7 negotiated in other franchises that have been approved by the Authority.

8 **Q. What is the standard to be utilized by the Authority in determining**  
9 **whether to approve the franchise?**

10 A. My understanding is that under the statute, the Authority is authorized to  
11 approve the franchise if it finds that it "is necessary and proper for the  
12 public convenience and properly conserves the public interest."

13 **Q. In your opinion, are the franchise terms set forth in Ordinance #440**  
14 **necessary and proper for the public convenience and in the public**  
15 **interest?**

16 A. Yes.

17 **Q. Do you know of any facts that would indicate that the new franchise**  
18 **arrangement reflected in Ordinance #440 is not in the public interest?**

19 A. No.

20 **Q. What are you asking the Authority to do in this proceeding?**

21 A. Based on the facts discussed above, we are asking the Authority to  
22 approve the new franchise arrangement between Piedmont and Ashland.

23 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

1 | A. Yes it does.